

The Bell Ringer

Sharing the Good News of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kinston, NC
Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



December
2011

Keeping Christ in all Seasons

Listed on this page are special offerings for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. The parish will observe the regular Sunday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Advent

November 27 – Advent I



11:15 a.m. – Advent Wreath making in Moseley Hall - an intergenerational activity

December 11 – Advent III

10:00 a.m. - Ingathering and Blessing of Christmas gifts Foster Children

11:15 a.m. – Annual Parish Meeting



December 18– Advent IV

4:00 p.m. – Christmas caroling/supper



December 21 – 10:30 a.m.

Decorate the church for Christmas – help is needed! All available are asked to show up

December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. – Family celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This special service welcomes families with children. It will feature a Children's Christmas Drama and music by the children of St. Mary's Church – through the Sixth Grade (A nursery will be available for infants.)

11:00 p.m. – Festal traditional celebration of the Holy Eucharist with traditional music will lead us into Christmas morning



December 25 Christmas Day

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10:00 a.m. – Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Chapel (no music)

January 1 – Christmas II

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. – Lessons & Carols/Holy Eucharist

January 8 – 1 Epiphany

8:00a.m. – Holy Eucharist – Rite I

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist – Rite II

3:00 p.m. – Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

5:00 p.m. – Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

6:00 p.m. – Renaissance Banquet

The Episcopal Church



In the Anglican Communion

A global community of 77 million Anglicans in 38 member provinces/churches.



In the United States

A community of 2 million members in 118 dioceses in the Americas and abroad.
Established in 1788.

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Episcopal Church Center

815 2nd Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10017 212-716-6000

www.dfms.org/



In the Diocese of East Carolina

A community of more than 15,000 communicants in 74 churches.

Founded in 1883.

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, 3rd

Diocesan Office, 705 Doctors Dr.

P.O. Box 1336, Kinston, NC 28503

Tel: 252-522-0885

Fax: 252-523-5272

Website: www.diocese-eastcarolina.org



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

A church of 426 baptized members whose mission is to worship and serve God joyfully, to nurture each other in faith and wholeness, to minister to others, and to manifest the "good news" of Christ.

800 Rountree Street

Kinston, NC 28501-3655

Tel: 252-523-6146

Fax: 252-523-5134

Website: www.stmaryskinston.com

Rector	The Rev'd A. Michael Singer
Assistant	The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Marilyn R. Wiggins
Parish Secretary	Mrs. Shelly H. Sparrow
Sr. Warden	Mr. Clifton W. Carey
Jr. Warden	Mr. J. Mark Herring

Christmas Poinsettias

Each year for the Christmas liturgies the altars and chancel are decorated with a sea of poinsettias in celebration of Christ's birth and given in memory or honor of loved ones.



On Christmas Day many of the flowers are delivered by the members of the Cherished Member Committee to our homebound and ill members.

If you would like to remember a loved one or offer flowers in thanksgiving for someone, please use the enclosed offering envelope. Send a check to St. Mary's Altar Guild, c/o St. Mary's Church. December 20, is the deadline for submissions to insure that names will appear in the Christmas bulletin.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Mary's Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2011. The meeting will be held at 11:15 a.m. and followed by a meal. Drinks and table setting will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a large dish to share. It will be a time to hear reports, vote on members of the Vestry and Delegates to Diocesan Convention.

At the time the newsletter is printed the Nomination Committee is developing a slate of nominees. When the slate of nominees is complete it will be made public.

Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship information and pledge cards will soon be in the mail. It is the church's desire to have your pledge cards returned to the church by December 16.

Extra pledge cards and letters will be found on the table in the Narthex or from Marilyn Wiggins in the Parish Office.

Should you have questions regarding the stewardship campaign or your pledge, please contact us or the church office.

Joel Gilmore and Adrian King
Co-Chairpersons

Chili Cook Off

16 chilis were brought into Moseley Hall on the evening of November 9, and over 70 people enjoyed sampling and casting their votes. The results were close (each chili received at least 1 vote for Best in Show). Here are the winners:

Best in Show	Most Original
1st: Mark Moore	Scott Newton
2nd: Stuart Stroud	Mark Moore
3rd: Billy Caraway	Holly Warren

Many thanks to all who participated!!



Rector's Letter

Peace on earth

by

The Rev'd A. Michael Singer

Violence and war rage around us. We see it daily from Iraq and Afghanistan, from Baltimore and Kinston and from the very land where the Prince of Peace was born and carried out His ministry. Shortly after Christ's birth, Matthew reports in his Gospel that King Herod ordered all the male children of Bethlehem under the age of 2 years be slaughtered. We commemorate this event on December 28, Holy Innocents Day. So even when Jesus was an infant, fear, hatred and unspeakable violence swirled around Him.

Longfellow writes:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet, the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.
And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said.
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

So what is "Christmas Eve peace"? It has to do with the candles, the quietness of Christmas Eve, a silent night, a lovely sanctuary. It's a lovely experience, and like an aspirin, it will last about four hours.

So what is the "peace of Jesus Christ?" The "peace of Christ" has to do with those people in whom the Prince of Peace comes to live. When the Prince of Peace lives within the manger of our heart, we become people who work for justice and rightness. Peace? ... follows along behind.

Longfellow does not leave us in despair. He continues:

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
"The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men"

(Excerpted are taken from Christ Episcopal Church, Mena, AR, November 30, 2006)



Everyday ways to make a Difference

Clip

Look for Box Tops coupons on hundreds of products. Clip the Box Tops coupons from the items you buy and put them in the Box Tops collection box in the Narthex.

Marketplace

Before you shop online, visit www.BoxTops4Education.com to register to support Northwest Elementary School. Shop through the Box Tops Marketplace with hundreds of popular merchants like Target, Macy's, and Nordstroms. Northwest earns a cash donation with every qualifying purchase at no additional cost to you.

Reading Room

Visit the Reading Room at www.BoxTops4Education.com to order from Barnes and Noble. Through each Reading Room order, Northwest will earn 3-6% for each of your online purchases from Barnes and Noble.

Sign up to support Northwest Elementary School online today at www.BoxTops4Education.com

Music and Liturgy

Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival January 8, 2012

Costume Fittings: November 30, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. and Dec. 4, 11:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m.

If you did not attend one of our fall costume fittings, please call Marion Classen: 522-1729 to confirm you have your costume at home or to schedule an individual time

Volunteers are needed for decorating, collecting greenery, banquet setup and cleanup, ushers, props and more. Call or email the church office if you can help us offer this timeless gift to our community!

Boar's Head Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Saturday, December 10th - - 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 9th - - 7:00 p.m.

Carolyn Crossland is the organist and music director of this year's festival

Open Dress Rehearsal on January 7

Members of St. Mary's are strongly encouraged to attend the open dress rehearsal for our annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival on Saturday morning, January 7, at 9:00 am to make available additional seats for our out-of-town guests for the Festival on Sunday. We are truly blessed to offer this profound celebration as a gift to our community, and enjoy sharing the wonder of Olde Christmas at St. Mary's.

The Boar's Head dress rehearsal on Saturday morning will be a full festival, including costumes, props, and animals. Please overlook any 'rough edges' and enjoy this wonderful celebration of the meaning of Christmas in music, drama and dance.

Sharing Our Voices

This Christmas, one of the greatest gifts we can give is free! The wonderful music of the Episcopal Church is an opening through which God's grace flows into us, and through us. When we sing together, we are declaring our openness to God's abundant grace, our willingness to be instruments of God's immeasurable love. This is an open secret about the choirs: they don't spend extra time at the church because they have nothing else to do; they are committed to share in the joy of letting the Love through! When we all participate to the fullest extent, the service isn't better because it's louder, it's better because it is more welcoming to the work of the Holy Spirit, more vibrantly alive! No one else has your voice!

Christmas Lessons and Carols Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.



The Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols is a format for a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in several short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols.

Come; sing your favorite Christmas carols as we celebrate the New Year.

Christian Formation

Poverty: What would Jesus have us do?

A Special Offering for Kids of Vision

(An offshoot of Women of Vision and World Vision)

This is a 4-week event for kids K-6th grade:

When - Saturdays 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/11 from 10 am until 12 noon

Where - Queen Street United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

For more information contact Bridges Baker (468-7861) or Desta Hudson (286-6785)

Sunday School: Winter Break

St. Mary's will continue to provide Christian Education for all youth through Sunday, December 18th. So that our adult volunteers and youth participants may have time with their families over the holiday, we will NOT be having Sunday school December the 25th, nor will we have it on January 1st or 8th. Sunday School will resume as normal on January the 15th.

Where are the Wise Men?



It took the Wise Men some time to travel to meet the Christ Child. During the weeks of Advent and Christmas the Wise

Men will begin their journey. We encourage children and adults to seek them out, but please do not touch them as they are fragile. Report to Father Tom or Father Michael where you spot them around the church. They look forward to getting your reports.

Children's Christmas Pageant



All children ages three through 6th Grade are invited to help us bring the story of Jesus' birth to life! The Christmas Nativity will be during the 5 pm Christmas Eve service. We need angels, shepherds, wise girls and boys as well as sheep, donkeys, cows, doves, and even the Christmas star!

We will have two practices prior to Christmas Eve:

Sunday, December 18

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21

5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Goes A-Caroling



Everyone is invited to go Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 18. We'll have an evening of caroling. We will meet at the church at 4:00 pm before venturing out to spread good news and cheer to the home-bound and shut-in members of our community.

We will return to the church for soup, sandwiches and dessert. All those attending are asked to bring a soup, sandwiches, or dessert to share. Bring good voices as well!

Youth Community News

“Preach the Gospel at all times... and when necessary, use words.”



These words, often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, do well to describe this past month for the EYC at St. Mary's. First, the Gospel message of hospitality was preached as the EYC helped host a Halloween Carnival for the youngest ones in our community. Then the warmth of fellowship (an essential aspect of the lived Gospel) was shared around a campfire. Next, the EYC saw the Gospel painted and expressed by others at the NC Museum of Art. There were a lot of preaching actions indeed.



But sometimes actual words are needed, and the EYC practiced this sort of preaching through planning and leading an entire worship service: The EYC Vesper Service. Nearly 50 parishioners were blessed as they followed the youth who carried out the roles of officiant, preacher, lectors, intercessor, acolyte, and usher in that Spirit-filled worship experience. *Preach the Gospel at all times... and when necessary, use words.* What an example the EYC has set for us all.

Mark these dates for December at EYC...

Come and be a part of this community and bring a friend!!

Sunday, December 4

- 5:30 – Jr. EYC meets in Walter Cattle room
- 6:30 – Jr. & Sr. EYC Supper together
- 7:00 – Sr. EYC meets in Walter Cattle room

Thursday, December 8– Sr. EYC Guys & Girls Groups (6:30-8:00 pm, place TBD)

Sunday, December 11

- Laser Tag & Supper in New Bern with the EYC from Christ Church. Times TBD.

Sunday, December 18

- 4:00pm - Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 25

- No EYC - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!



Current sophomores & juniors: Still forming plans for your summer? Consider joining rising juniors and seniors from around the nation and all denominations for two weeks of learning, service, worship, and fellowship in an intentional Christian community on Duke's campus and with renowned faculty from Duke Divinity School. You won't regret it! The dates are June 17-30, 2012. Let Father Tom know if you are interested in learning more.

YOUTH AT CONVENTION

The 129th Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina
Feb 3 & 4, 2012 in New Bern, NC

Three great ways to participate in Convention!

MISSION ON CONVENTION

Grades 6-12. This new event will include a concert by the *Sloan River Project*, a mission project, and fellowship with youth from throughout the diocese. All youth will be staying at Christ Church, New Bern.

7pm Friday until 9am Saturday

CONVENTION PAGE

Grades 8-12. Serve on the floor of Convention to help the business of Convention run smoothly.

9am Friday until 4pm Saturday

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Grades 9-12. St. Mary's can send 1 youth with seat and voice to represent this parish in all Convention activities.
9am Friday until 4pm Saturday

THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you so much to the wonderful adults of St. Mary's who have helped foster a sense of community for the youth by providing meals in November: Clifton Carey, Jon & Laury Sargeant, Greg & Sarah Turner, Claude & Vicki Kennedy and Heather Wentz. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex for 2012 - Please consider bringing a meal and spending time with the EYC in the coming year! Also, thanks to Heather Wentz & Laury Sargeant for their fantastic work with the Halloween Carnival!!!

Other parish news



“Chocolate Chips Save Lives” and “C is for Cookies and Caring” are just a few of the slogans children at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church are putting on posters in hopes of helping to solve a BIG problem - malaria. On Sunday, December 11, the children are having a cookie sale after church to raise funds to support *NetsforLife@*, a malaria prevention program through Episcopal Relief & Development.

Sometimes it seems the world’s problems are too big for anyone to try to solve, but these young people are hoping their small efforts will make a big difference in stopping malaria dead in its tracks. One life-saving, insecticide-treated net can save three people from needless suffering and certain death. The cost of the net is only \$12, but this simple, long-lasting device, combined with training on how to effectively use it, may be the single greatest lifesaver in sub-Saharan Africa.

These children are chipping in to heal a hurting world by, first of all, baking a batch of cookies with their family. A dozen cookies will sell for \$12. Twelve dollars will buy one malaria net. As nets are donated, angels (made out of net) will be added to a large mobile in the church, to remind us of the difference we are making in the lives of our neighbors around the world. “*Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for in doing so; some have entertained angels without knowing it.*” (Hebrews 13:2; World English Bible)

Your tax-deductible donation to *NetsforLife@* through St. Mary’s Church, can help save precious lives by giving basic health care, education and necessities as simple and as affordable as a \$12 mosquito net. A donation makes the perfect Christmas, birthday or “just because” present. Consider giving a net for each of your children, grandchildren, or godchildren as a way of giving thanks for their safe sleep each night. If you choose to give a gift in honor or memory of a friend, a card will be sent to acknowledge your gift.



For every minute you spent reading this article, somewhere in the world a child died of malaria. Our support can help children, families and whole communities move from sickness to strength. If you would like more information on how you can get involved in the program, please feel free to call the church office at 252.523.6146 or visit www.netsforlifeafrica.org.

Pick up a copy of “ONE NET SAVES THREE LIVES” in the Narthex to learn more about how we can partner together to help reduce the threat of malaria.

Children’s Christmas Project



With only a few weeks remaining, there are still a couple of names on the bulletin board for St. Mary’s Children’s Christmas Project. We hope that our St. Mary’s Church family will come together once again this year to help provide a wonderful Christmas for the children of the Lenoir County Foster Children Program, which is a ministry of the Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary’s.

Purchased gifts that have been wrapped may be brought to the church anytime prior to December 11th. It is helpful, in attempting to keep gifts together, to wrap the kid’s gift you pick with the same wrapping paper. On Saturday, December 10th, the church doors will be open to receive gifts from 9:00 am until 11:00 a.m. On Sunday, December 11th, the gifts will be blessed during the 10:00 a.m. celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

We hope you will join us on December 11th, as the gifts will adorn the church for the annual blessing. Those with questions should contact Frances Herring. Again, we encourage you to help make a special Christmas for a special child this year.

Year end contributions

All contributions to St. Mary’s Church for 2011 must be received in the church office no later than 12:00 o’clock noon on December 30, 2011. Statements will be mailed in early January. Please review your statement and call Marilyn Wiggins if you have questions or concerns. All statements will be considered correct and final as of January 15, 2012.

Readers needed

Individuals are needed to read lessons for the Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, January 1, 2012. If you are willing to read a lesson, during the 10:00 a.m. service that day, please contact Shelly Sparrow in the Parish Office.

Cherished Member Christmas Luncheon

**Thursday, December 1
at 11:30 a.m.**

All men and women of retirement
age are invited
to attend.

Those planning to attend are
asked to contact the Parish Office
by December 1st
to make a reservation.

*Special entertainment of
Christmas Music
to be provided by children
of the Arendell Parrott Academy
Elementary Chorus under the
direction of
Peggy Vaughn.*

As always, please feel free to invite a
friend or two.

Annual Parish Meeting

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SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 a.m. – Sunday School

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2011
Charles B. Beasley
Susan F. Fox
R. Adrian King
Sarah V. Mullikin

2012
F. Lee Albritton
J. Mark Herring
M. Dee Warner, Jr.
Kevin M. Zoltek

2013
Juliet S. Barrus
Clifton W. Carey
Joel V. Gilmore
Laury A. Sargeant

Senior Warden – Clifton W. Carey
Junior Warden – J. Mark Herring
Clerk – F. Lee Albritton
Treasurer – D. Stuart Lindley